AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a packet from a first network device to a second network device,

   wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link,

   the first network device and the second network device each having a

   version of a routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network

   device's routing protocol version;

determining whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the

   same as the second network device's routing protocol version;

verifying the first network device's routing protocol version as being the same as

   the second network device's routing protocol version;

choosing the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second

   network devices; and

configuring the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first

   and second network devices.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the version of the routing protocol of

each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the method

further comprises detecting the first network device's routing protocol type, and

determining whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same

as the second network device's routing protocol type.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising configuring the

link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second network devices

comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol

version.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled)

9.   (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

determining whether a first network device's routing protocol version is the same as a second network device's routing protocol version;

verifying the first network device's routing protocol version being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version; and

configuring a link including the first network device and the second network device, each network device including the same routing protocol version.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the version of the RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

receive a packet from a first network device to a second network device, wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version;

determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version;

verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version;

choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second network devices; and

configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first and second network devices.

16. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the version of the routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the set of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to detect the first network device's routing protocol type, and to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.

17. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first

and second network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a

preferred routing protocol version.

18.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the

routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

19.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the

version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.

20.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the

version of the RIP of each of the first and second networkdevices is one of a

triggered type or a periodic type.

21.   (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sets of

instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

determine whether a first network device's routing protocol version is the same as

       a second network device's routing protocol version;

verify the first network device's routing protocol version being the same as the

       second network device's routing protocol version; and

configure a link including the first network device and the second network device,

       each network device including a routing protocol version.

22.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the

routing protocol comprises Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

23.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the

version of the RIP is one of Version 1 or Version 2.

24.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the

version of the RIP of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic

type.

Claims 25-26 (Cancelled)

27.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a second network device to receive a packet from a first network device, wherein

the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first

network device and the second network device each having a version of

routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing

protocol version; and

a processor coupled with the first and second network devices, the processor to

determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is

the same as the second network device's routing protocol version,

verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same

as the second network device's routing protocol version,

choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and

second network devices, and

configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the

first and second network devices.

28.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the version of the

routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic

type, and the processor is further to detect the first network device's routing

protocol type, and to determine whether the first network device's routing

protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.

29.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the processor is further

to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second

network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol version.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.

32. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a second network device to receive a packet from a first network device, wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version;

a processor coupled with the storage medium and the first and second network devices, the processor to

determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version,

verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version,

choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second network devices, and

configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first and second network devices; and

a storage medium coupled with the processor, the storage medium to store

instructions to facilitate the processor to determine, verify, choose, and

configure.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the version of the routing

protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and

the processor is further to detecting the first network device's routing protocol

type, and to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is

the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the processor is further to

configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second

network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred

routing protocol version.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the routing protocol

comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the version of RIP

comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.